Amber Kania  
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Professor, Turtola  
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**The Importance of Early Childhood Education**

Quality early childhood education is critical for a child's well-being and behavior in the future. Having a child in a well-developed and well taught program should be a top priority for each and every parent who has a child heading to preschool. Sometimes parents don't really look into a program to see what the organization is all about, which can be a big mistake, because how a child starts off in school will decide his or her future. If children are not put into a quality child program, it's more likely they will do poorly in school in the later years. Early childhood education is the key to building a great foundation for educational success. The young age is a time of growth to make a child become even better in the future. It's also very important for a child to be around children that are in the program to build their relationship and social skills, and develop values and ethics. Play should always be considered an essential part of a child's early education. Therefore, having children start off with the best quality program now, will prepare them for the rest of their educational years. Quality early childhood education provides so much for one child and should be the top priority for every parent.  
  
 A child's education today, highlights the success of his or her future. But it depends on if it's the right education for the child. Some organizations or preschool's today, do not provide the quality and knowledge a child should learn before heading to kindergarten. Children should be ready for school, by giving them quality education they would not have to go to kindergarten unprepared. The first three years of a child's life are when the brain grows and develops. They learn so much throughout their first three years of life. Each child goes through social, emotional, cognitive, and motor development. The quality of each, depends on what the children learn and the quality in which they learn it. There are many factors of quality child education that parents should look for in enrolling their child in the proper school. Appropriate and safe environments are a very important factor. Teacher-to-child ratio, developmentally appropriate programs, individual needs, culturally appropriate practice, family education and support, and staff training; are all equally important also. Researchers at Chicago’s publicly-funded child-parent centers tracked 989 children the center taught for 14 years. The children who did not participate were 70 percent more likely to be arrested for a violent crime by age 18. If a young child does not receive sufficient nurturing, nutrition, parental/caregiver interaction, and stimulus during this crucial period, the child will begin to hamper his or her success in their future. Longitudinal studies have demonstrated that children who attend quality early education are 40 percent less likely to repeat a grade, 30 percent more likely to graduate high school, and more than twice as likely to go to college.

In conclusion, having quality early child education is very important for a parent or caregiver to consider. All programs should include curricula and activities that meet the social, emotional, and cognitive needs of all children. Research shows that attending a high-quality preschool program has a lasting impact on a child’s success both in school and life. Parents should spend as much time as possible to research such programs. A child should deserve to get the best education possible. By choosing a bad program, a parent is affecting the life of their child. Children deserve the best, and by giving them the best, it gives the child a bright and successful future. Quality early childhood education is critical for a child’s well-being and behavior in the future and should be a top priority for every parent.